

Application No. 09/552,887

Amendment Dated April 14, 2006

Response to Telephone Conference with Examiner of April 14, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this Amendment, claims 13 and 32 are canceled and claims 1, 17 and 24 are amended.

Claims 1-12, 14-15 and 17-31 are pending.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

TELEPHONE INTERVIEW OF April 14, 2006:

The applicant first wishes to thank Patent Examiner Dass for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview of April 14, 2006. During the interview, Examiner Dass stated that it was likely that the claims would be allowed if independent claims 13 and 32 were canceled. By the present Amendment, applicant cancels these claims such that all of the remaining claims should be allowed.

It is understood by applicant that the Examiner intends to allow the claims because of the language "registering a player comprising the steps of inputting at least one biometric sample... storing unique biometric data ... in the central depository but not associating the unique biometric data with other details of identity of the player...." This language is supported in the specification at, for example, page 8, lines 6-11.

Claim 13 is canceled because it does not contain this language.

Claim 32 is canceled because it is a duplicate of claim 1, but without the "... but not associating...." clause.

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Additionally, the Examiner requested that use of the language "establish an account" or the equivalent be added to the independent claims with respect to the unique player's account. Applicant has added the language (or its equivalent) "creating a unique player's account in the central computer associated with the at least one biometric sample of the player" to each of the independent claims. This language is supported in the specification at, for example, page 7, lines 14-16.

Finally, although the terms "player" and "user" are used synonymously throughout the claims, for consistency sake, several amendments are made to the claims with respect to these terms.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw any remaining rejections and objections to the pending claims and pass these claims to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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April 14, 2006

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By _____

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